



## **2019 NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL SET TO BRING JOY TO THE WORLD**

*Annual star-studded festival is ready to dazzle Naples, Florida with three days of unprecedented culinary and wine experiences*

**January 22, 2019 (Naples, FL)** — Excitement is building in Southwest Florida as the highly anticipated 19th annual Naples Winter Wine Festival (NWWF) is only a few days away. This year's theme, "Joy to the World," will bring some of the world's most renowned vintners, chefs and Master Sommeliers together for three days of rare vintage wines, unforgettable culinary experiences and highly coveted auction lots.

The Naples Winter Wine Festival is the most successful international charity wine auction, having raised \$176 million to date since its inception in 2001 and \$15.1 million from last year's event alone. Beginning next Thursday, the Festival will welcome 18 celebrity chefs, over 30 world-class vintners from the top wineries around the globe and 18 of the world's elite Master Sommeliers, who will team up to provide guests with exquisite food and wine offerings. NWWF will also showcase over 60 unparalleled auction lot items available for bidding during Saturday's iconic Live Auction.

"We're honored to be welcoming such an incredible lineup of the world's best vintners, chefs, and Master Sommeliers to this year's Naples Winter Wine Festival," said Linda Koehn, 2019 Festival Co-Chair. "This year's auction lot donors have truly gone above and beyond by providing some of the most unique lots we've ever seen in our Festival's 19 years. Thanks to the steadfast support of our Trustees, patrons, partners and donors this is sure to be another banner year of raising funds and awareness for the needs of the at-risk children in Collier County."

This year's auction lot items will feature exclusive experiences and one-of-a-kind prizes. Bidders will have their eye on an incredibly rare and unique collection of eight Double Magnums of Screaming Eagle Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, one from each year between 1992 to 1999. One couple will win an ultimate getaway to the U.S. Virgin Islands on a newly refurbished yacht and an individually tailored itinerary, while car-enthusiasts can raise their paddle for a 2019 McLaren 720S Spider convertible or a 2020 Bentley Continental GT Convertible. For full descriptions of this year's auction lot items, please visit <https://www.napleswinefestival.com/auction-lots/>.

The three-day Festival will kick off on Friday, January 25, where patrons will be invited to experience the Naples Children & Education Foundation's (NCEF) community impact at Friday morning's Meet the Kids Day. This crowd favorite event will feature meet-and-greets and personal stories from children whose lives have been personally improved through the grants and strategic initiatives from the NCEF. Attendees will get a firsthand look at how their contributions will better the lives of these underprivileged and at-risk local children and learn more about how NCEF has aided 275,000 impoverished children with the services and resources they need to excel in school and beyond.

On Friday evening, guests will savor creations from the culinary talents of 18 all-star chefs, all designed to pair perfectly with a selection of the attending vintners' prized wines in stunning settings throughout Naples hosted by Festival Trustees.

For those who aren't able to participate in the Live Auction, NWWF's Online Auction is open from 12:00am (EST) on January 20 until 12:00pm on January 31, and features rare bottles of wine, exclusive visits to boutique wineries, dining with several 2019 NWWF celebrity chefs, unique culinary experiences and much more. A full roster and additional details are available at [www.nwwfonlineauction.com](http://www.nwwfonlineauction.com).

To inquire about the Festival, please contact Barrett Farmer at [barrett@napleswinefestival.com](mailto:barrett@napleswinefestival.com) or 239-514-2239.

For all press-related inquiries, please contact [naples@sunshinesachs.com](mailto:naples@sunshinesachs.com) or 212-691-2800.

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### **ABOUT NAPLES WINTER WINE FESTIVAL**

The Naples Winter Wine Festival, one of the world's most prestigious charity wine auctions, offers a weekend of unforgettable memories. Guests enjoy world-class food and wine during intimate dinners in private homes and are invited to bid on once-in-a-lifetime travel and wine experiences during an electrifying live auction. Since its inaugural event in 2001, the NWWF has raised more than \$176 million, making a profound difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of children.

### **ABOUT NAPLES CHILDREN & EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

The Naples Children & Education Foundation, the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, is improving the educational, emotional, and health outcomes of underprivileged and at-risk children. Through its annual grants and strategic initiatives, NCEF has impacted over 45 of the most effective nonprofits in the community, providing 275,000 children with the services and resources they need to excel. NCEF's unique approach, which emphasizes collaboration between organizations and bridges public and private resources, has become a blueprint for how to transform a community, one issue at a time.